



**TOWN OF HOPKINTON  
NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**Hopkinton Select Board  
Hopkinton School Board**

**Joint Public Meeting**

**Tuesday, September 30, 2014**

**5:30 PM**

**Hopkinton Town Library  
Community Room**

**PUBLIC SESSION**

**Approved by Select Board October 6, 2014**

**Select Board Present:** George Langwasser, Sara Persechino, Ken Traum and Sue Strickford

**School Board Present:** Steve Chamberlin, Superintendent; Dave Luneau, Chairman; Liz Durant, Vice Chair; Matt Cairns, William Chapin, Jr., William Jones, James Newson, School Moderator

**Staff Present:** Neal Cass, Town Administrator; Robin Buchanan, Administrative Assessing Assistant; and Brenda Vincent, School Administrative Assistant

- 1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance:** Mr. Newson opened the meeting at 5:30 pm and Dave Luneau led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 2. Additions/Deletions from Agenda:** None
- 3. Public Comment (1):** None
- 4. Comments from the Hopkinton School Board and Select Board:** Dave Luneau thanked James Newson for moderating tonight's meeting. He noted this is the 5<sup>th</sup> year the two Boards have met; there is great cooperation between the Boards and he thanked Steve Chamberlin and Neal Cass for all their collaborative efforts. Also he welcomed, new Administrative Assistant, Brenda Vincent. George Langwasser thanked both Boards; noting these meeting allow for updates and future planning from both Boards.

## 5. Items for Discussion:

### a. Annual Meeting Schedules:

- i. **School District Meeting Date:** Mr. Chamberlin stated the School District Meeting will be on Saturday, March 7, 2015.
- ii. **Town Meeting Date:** Mr. Cass stated the Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 14, 2015.
- iii. **Neighboring Community Member Proposed Warrant Regarding Educational Funding:** Mr. Cairns read the proposed warrant article, noting that communities received an e-mail from Bruce Johnson, a Selectman in Webster. “Resolved that the State of New Hampshire provided a comprehensive meaningful system of funding for State Education needs. To see if the Town will vote to ask our Governor and our state legislators to reform state funding for education with that reform to be directed to significant reduction of property taxes. The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice from the Select Board to the governor and state legislators information them of the instructions from their constituents within 30 days of the vote.” Mr. Cairns stated the School Board has not met since receiving this e-mail; therefore, they have no official position. Mr. Chamberlin stated he understood this was a topic of discussion at the Regional Superintendents Meeting. Mr. Chamberlin was not able to attend; however, he will follow up on it.

- b. **Hopkinton E-Series:** Mr. Chamberlin stated that the Entrepreneurial Series had 4 planned events and were very successful. He further stated public support was strong; they had several speakers. Plans for next year include attracting more females into the program; as well as getting female speakers.

- c. **Developing field use policy:** Mr. Cass stated they are in the early stages of putting together a policy for field use. There has been nothing written in the past; making it difficult for the Recreation Director to schedule field time and fees. Mr. Chapin asked if fees would be charged to organizations like HSYA; Mr. Cass stated there was a discussion about waiving fees, if the organization supports the fields in other ways. He further stated a written policy would keep everything consistent. Mr. Cairns inquired if scheduling would include maintaining the fields. Mr. Cass replied yes. Further discussion ensued with regards to contacting local groups for input and comment and the tulip program.

- d. **Meeting with Real Estate Professionals:** Mr. Cass stated, he and Mr. Chamberlin met with local real estate professionals to get an update on how the real estate market is in Hopkinton. Mary Cowan stated she has seen dramatic improvement over the last year. Mr. Chamberlin stated it is also an opportunity for the school and town to let real estate agents know what is going on in the schools and town. It was noted that buyers want to see an on line presence of the schools.

- e. **Potential Solar Array:** Mr. Traum stated that Peterborough has received a grant for a solar array from the Public Utilities Commission. He noted the array should be placed on the biggest building, which would be the Middle/High School. He suggested the school be the Host Facility and he will offer assistance to the school.

- f. **Town Initiatives: Infrastructure:** Mr. Cass stated that over the summer, intern Colin O’Keeffe met with department heads and committees and discussed strengths and weakness of each department. We have neglected our infrastructure and it is about to catch up with us. We have continually cut the paving budget and now almost every road in town needs work. Mr. Cass stated we are looking into reactivating the EDC Committee.
  - g. **School Districts Initiatives:**
    - i. **Mission Statement/Instruction:** Mr. Chamberlin stated a new mission statement has been adopted; it is three words: Above All, Care. The focus will be care for students, families and teachers. Mr. Chamberlin stated he will have an opportunity to observe all the teachers in their classrooms; something most superintendents do not do.
    - ii. **Facilities:** Mr. Chamberlin gave a short history of the district; it was noted that school enrollment continues to drop. A committee will be looking at the facilities and the possibility of closing Maple Street School and expanding Harold Martin School for grades K-5. He stated we need to invest in our infrastructure. Mr. Chamberlin spoke of the lack of security at the Middle/High School and the need to remedy that as soon as possible. If Maple Street School were to close; the district is looking to use the space for offices/maybe shared space with the Town. Mrs. Strickford noted that we are currently building an addition on to the fire station; our roads are falling apart; taxpayers can only pay so much. Mr. Chamberlin stated any changes would be based on need not want.
  - h. **Possible Budget Drivers**
    - i. **School District**
      1. **Student Programming:** Changes in programming sometimes requires trainings
      2. **Building Maintenance:** ongoing
      3. **Retirement:** Mr. Chamberlin stated increases in employer contributions is the driver. Mr. Chamberlin further stated on the positive note there are not collective bargaining agreements in this budget.
    - ii. **Town**
      1. **Infrastructure:** Mr. Cass stated the Town has 50 miles of paved roads and 50 miles of gravel roads. We have 7 miles of road, which is in extremely bad shape; an estimate cost for just a top coat is one million dollars. The Fire Station addition is on schedule and on budget.
      2. **Retirement:** Mr. Cass stated as with the school; employer contributions will increase in the areas for Police and Fire.
  - i. **Notable School District/Town Collaborations:** Mr. Chamberlin noted that many of the items listed are on-going collaborations. He further noted the addition of 3 new collaborative efforts: Hopkinton’s 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; Athletic Training (safety measures); and vehicle maintenance. Mr. Chamberlin stated both the schools and Town are well served by working together.
  - j. **Next Meeting:** Spring or Fall of 2015 depending on need
6. **Public Comment (2):** Jeff Donohoe, Treasurer for the Men’s Softball expressed concern over the possibility of fees being charged for the use of the fields. He also feels

reviving the EDC is a great idea. Mr. Langwasser noted that Caterpillar is leaving Hopkinton and Warner for a new facility. Mr. Donohoe stated the best use of the property is retail stores; adding he knows people will not want to hear it, but we need a commercial base.

Janet Krzyzaniak asked if something could be done now to make the entrance at the Middle/High School more secure. She also stated that the SAU building needs work.

7. **Adjournment:** There being no further comments; Mr. Newson closed the meeting at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Buchanan  
Administrative Assessing Assistant